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ure, and analogous to some caterpillars' hairs which have poison glands at the base. A viscid secretion from the sac fills the hair and exudes from its surface. The escape of this fluid when not in use is perhaps prevented by a change in shape of the organs when in a state of rest.

As announced by Blackwall in 1816, a viscid fluid, not atmospheric pressure, is the cause of adhesion in such cases. The theory of suction or atmospheric pressure, still popular, is disproved by the facts that a *Dytiscus*, chloroformed to prevent a voluntary relinquishment of his hold, still adheres to the surface of glass in a receiver exhausted of air; that every foot-step leaves a microscopic print upon the surface of a clean glass slide; and that the suckers in action are applied evenly to the surface, or are partially filled with water, so that any attempt at suction would cause, and would be defeated by, a flow of the viscid fluid from the sac.

The tenacious fluid which is the means of adhesion, coagulates readily, does not mix easily with water, and is extremely insoluble. It sometimes hardens so thoroughly as to glue the disks inseparably to their object of attachment, the insect escaping only at the expense of mutilation, somewhat as flies in autumn often become so firmly adherent to the window-panes that the enfeebled insects are unable to escape.—R. H. W.

NOTES.

At a meeting of the Faculty of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, held May 6, 1871, the Humboldt Scholarship was awarded to J. A. Allen, in consideration of his paper upon the "Mammals and Winter Birds of East Florida," and the proceeds of the Humboldt Fund for one year, granted to him in aid of his exploration of the Fauna of the Rocky Mountains.

The Albany Institute and the Troy Scientific Association enjoyed a field meeting of rare interest at North Adams on the 27th of May, visiting the Natural Bridge and the Hoosac Tunnel, and receiving throughout the day an enthusiastic reception. They want to go to North Adams again.

Prof. F. V. Hayden, U. S. Geologist, writes us, May 30th, from Cheyenne, Wyoming: "We start from this place to-day with twenty-eight persons and five freight cars loaded, and hope to camp at Ogden on the evening of June 1st. We start north from that point to Fort Ellis, Montana, and examine the Yellowstone.

A few weeks ago the "Explorador" made her trial trip on the Thames. She is a little iron craft drawing thirty inches, and was built for the Robinson Navigation Company of New York. She is designed for a most interesting expedition which cannot fail to increase the commerce of the west of South America and develop its natural history. Ascending the Amazon, the "Explorador" will be rolled around the rapids of the Madeira, and will then penetrate far into the interior of Bolivia by the Manu-tata and into the rich region of Matto Grosso by the Itenez. Peru is busily exploring its oriental side by the noble Ucayali. The "Tambo" has been up over eight hundred miles, nearly reaching the fort of Chanchamayo on the tributary Rio Tambo, only three days from Lima.

The Troy Scientific Association, accompanied by the Albany Institute and the Dana Societies of Troy and Albany, held a memorable field meeting on the Helderberg Mountains on the seventeenth of June, visiting the Indian Ladder, Tory House, Rock Mine, Thompson Lake, etc. There are few more really enjoyable spots in America, and none more suited for a scientific field-day, than this comparatively unknown locality, which is reached *via* Guilderland Station on the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad.

Among the signs of the scientific life of the present day one of the most encouraging, is the increasing frequency and enthusiasm of these delightful occasions of scientific study, intercourse and recreation called Field Meetings. A day upon the mountains is worth a week among the books.

Prof. Marsh of Yale College, with twelve other gentlemen, has started for the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Coast. He will be absent until winter, and will continue his investigations of the Tertiary and Cretaceous formations which his explorations last year proved to be very productive in new species of vertebrates.

Mr. Albert H. Tuttle has been appointed instructor in the use of the microscope at Harvard University.

Mr. J. A. Allen, of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, has been appointed University Lecturer on Ornithology at Harvard, and Mr. J. B. Perry also of the M. C. Z. has been appointed University Lecturer on "The Life of the Primordial Era."

Government is continuing the survey of the Great Lakes, and it is expected that the survey of Lake St. Clair will be completed this year, and that of Lake Michigan well begun before winter stops operations.

The American Journal of Science and Arts for July, has a short article by "B. S.," stating how the "Cardiff Giant" was cut out of a block of gypsum quarried near Fort Dodge, Iowa. The block was carried to the workshop of Mr. Burekhardt, a well known marble worker in Chicago, who contracted to furnish the originators of the scheme with a gigantic recumbent figure of a man.

The newly made "antique" was then conveyed to the Newell Farm and buried; after seven months it was "accidentally" discovered and thousands of persons were, and still are being humbugged.

The University of Pennsylvania have just laid the corner stone of the new buildings for its scientific school, in a plot of about eight acres purchased from the city. Provost Charles J. Stillé, to whom this new movement is largely due, gave an historical address, tracing the fortunes of the University from the organization of the College of Philadelphia as the sixth American College, just one hundred and sixteen years ago, an event largely due to the public spirit of Benjamin Franklin.—*Independent*.

A hydrographic party under Mr. W. H. Dall, acting assistant U. S. Coast Survey, will leave San Francisco in the course of a few weeks to undertake a reconnaissance of the Aleutian Islands and the adjacent islands. The work is directed by the U. S. Coast Survey, in accordance with a plan submitted a year and a half ago by Mr. Dall to Prof. Pierce, which was approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, and for the execution of which an appropriation was made by Congress at its last session. The work will include astronomical determinations of position, corrections of the old charts as far as possible, deep sea soundings and dredgings, and collections of Natural History and geology. Prof. M. W. Harrington of Ann Arbor, accompanies the party as astronomical observer.

M. Octave Pavy proposes to leave San Francisco in August, and to leave Petropavlovski, in Kamtchatka, in winter to reach Cape Yakan, N. E. Siberia, and try to get across Long's Strait to Wrangell Land, in a rubber boat like the "Nonpareil" which crossed the Atlantic. It will be carried to Cape Yakan by reindeer, and his small party of five or six will take sledges to cross the ice; and their boats for open water, and try to get across Long's Straits. After reaching Wrangell Land they will push as far north as possible, and return at the end of the season. The plan is good though difficult, and the explorations between Anadyrsk and Cape Yakan will be very valuable even if they get no farther.

INDIANAPOLIS MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.—In the May number of the NATURALIST we gave the list of officers for the next meeting of the Association, and called attention to some of the arrangements that had been made for the meeting; we now give the

Circular of the Local Committee.—"The objects of the American Association for the Advancement of Science are, "by periodical and migratory meetings to promote intercourse between those who are cultivating science in different parts of North America; to give a stronger and more general impulse, and a more systematic direction to scientific research in our country, and to procure for the labors of scientific men increased facilities and a wider usefulness."

The following extracts from the Constitution and Resolutions of the Association relate to membership:

"RULE 1.—Any person may become a member of the Association upon recommendation in writing by two members, nomination by the Standing Committee, and election by a majority of the members present."

"RESOLUTION 9.—Associate members may be admitted for one, two, or three years, as they shall choose at the time of admission; to be elected in the same way as permanent members, and to pay the same dues. They shall have all the social and scientific privileges of members, without taking part in the business."

The Twentieth Annual Meeting of the Association will be held at Indianapolis, Indiana, commencing WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1871, at ten o'clock, A. M.

It is hoped that all members will be present at the organization of the meeting.

On the afternoon of the first day, the Association will meet at the Academy of Music, where a reception will be extended to them by his Excellency, Conrad Baker, Governor of Indiana; to which, Prof. T. Sterry Hunt, President of the Association, will respond.

Members, and those who wish to become members, are requested, immediately upon their arrival, to register their names at the office of the Local Committee, at the State House, where they will be furnished with members' tickets, and such information as may be desired in regard to accommodations, etc.

The citizens have signified their desire to extend hospitality to the members. There are likewise ample hotel accommodations, and special arrangements will be made with hotel and boarding house proprietors for reduced rates. It is therefore particularly requested that persons intending to be present will notify the Local Secretary by letter, as early as practicable, and when possible, state the day they will arrive.

It is believed that the Committee will be able to make half-fare arrangements with all the railroads.

The members of the Local Committee will be known by a badge of ribbon.

Microscopists will please confer, as soon as possible after their arrival, with Dr. W. W. Butterfield at the Reception Room in the State House, in relation to the exhibition and care of any instruments or apparatus they may bring.

A suite of rooms have been secured in the State House for the special use of Microscopists."

By order of the Committee.

DANIEL MACAULEY, Chairman.

E. T. COX, Secretary.

Indianapolis, Ind., June 26, 1871.

We can give the following additional information to that contained in the Circular of the Local Committee. The meetings of all the sections, and the reception room and offices of the Local and Standing Committees will be at the State House, Sections A and B having allotted to them the Senate Chamber and the Hall of Representatives. The address of Prof. Hunt, the retiring president, will be delivered on Wednesday (the first) evening at the Music Hall, and we understand that President Gray will not take the chair until after the address, thus introducing one of the much desired reforms, which we hope will be followed by other needed changes. All the Railroads terminating at Indianapolis have agreed to furnish free return passes to members, and the Local Committee are endeavoring to obtain similar concessions from connecting roads. Prof. Cox, the Local Secretary and State Geologist of Indiana, in answer to our letter of inquiry, has given us a most favorable account of the health and comfort of the city, and assures us that if members wish to get sick they must go elsewhere, but if they want to enjoy a pleasant vacation and return to their duties fat and hearty he advises them to attend the Indianapolis meeting. We have in a previous number called attention to the proposed excursions of the Association. Prof. Cox also assures us that perfect safety will be guaranteed to the microscopes that are taken to the meeting, and that a suite of rooms, properly furnished, have been secured at the State House for the use of the section of microscopy, and that postal and telegraph facilities will be provided at the reception room. In fact, nothing will be omitted by the Local Committee to make the meeting an agreeable reunion and scientific success.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. A. P., Bedford, Mass.—Your bird is the Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireosylva olivacea*.—
E. C.